

Springfield, Ohio. Jeremy is remembered as being the adventurous type, always enjoying activities like rock climbing and rappelling. Based on his desire to participate in exciting activities, even as a child, it came as no surprise that he would eventually choose to join the military. In 2004, Jeremy enlisted in the United States Army and began his next adventure.

Corporal Greene felt tremendous pride for his country, and it will never be forgotten that he was willing to endanger his own life to protect the lives of his fellow citizens. His courage and heroism will always be remembered, and his sacrifice will forever live in the hearts and minds of those for whom he battled. Corporal Greene enlisted in the United States Army being fully aware that danger could arise in any situation. He accepted this so the freedoms and values he treasured could be enjoyed by men, women, and children around the world.

For his efforts, Corporal Greene was awarded several military medals and honors, including: the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, to name a few. In addition, to further exemplify his dedication and patriotism, Corporal Greene was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Although he loved his unit and his country, Jeremy treasured his family above all else. He is survived by his father, Richard Greene, of Springfield, Ohio, his mother, Cindy Greene (Mike White), of Oxford, Indiana, and two brothers, Mickey and Christopher Webster, as well as his loving nieces, Zoe, Sierra, and Jordan, whom Jeremy adored. Jeremy also leaves to cherish his memory many other friends and family members whose lives he has touched.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Corporal Jeremy R. Greene. He will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country; thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

THE RESERVISTS AND GUARDSMEN TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2007

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Reservists and Guardsmen Tax Relief Act of 2007. As Reservists and Guardsmen are activated, this can cause financial strains on many of them, and my legislation is meant to help provide some financial relief during the time in which they are called to active duty.

My bill would extend the penalty-free withdrawals from retirement accounts for Reservists and Guardsmen who are called to active duty for more than 179 days. This benefit is set to expire on December 31, 2007. My bill extends this benefit through December 31, 2008.

Under this tax benefit, Guardsmen and Reservists called to active duty can receive pay-

ments from their individual retirement accounts, 401(k) plans and 403(b) tax-sheltered annuities, without having to pay the 10 percent early-distribution surtax. Some Reservists and Guardsmen have already taken advantage of this benefit. While premature withdrawals from retirement accounts should be very carefully considered by anyone who has a retirement account, this proposal may assist in dealing with economic difficulties that may occur when a self-employed reservist, or any Reservist or Guardsman, is called to active duty service. This would be one way to allow them increased access to their money at a time when they are defending our liberties.

Some Reservists and Guardsmen, including small business owners and employees of small businesses, experience loss of income when they are called to active duty. The drop in income is real for many Reservists and Guardsmen. Removal of the early withdrawal penalty would be one way to help alleviate some of the income loss that a Reservist or Guardsman's family might suffer as a result of activation.

Our Reservists and Guardsmen should have access to their own money in order to help them make ends meet while activated. This is a small step to help out those who are serving in defense of our Nation. As a former active duty and reserve Army officer, I am committed to doing what I can to make active duty service easier for all of our servicemembers, both active and reserve.

IN SUPPORT OF THE BUX-MONT KATRINA RELIEF PROJECT

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and personal gratitude that I recognize the remarkable work of the Bux-Mont Katrina Relief Project (BMKP), whose organizers took bold initiative to provide much needed disaster relief services to Hancock County, Mississippi in the aftermath of Katrina Hurricane.

In partnership with the Salvation Army, the Bux-Mont Katrina Relief Project developed a community-to-community disaster response model. By creating a partnership between Bucks and Montgomery Counties in Pennsylvania and Hancock County in Mississippi, a \$1.25 million child care center was created. Furthermore, homes were rebuilt, schools were repaired and community projects were aided. In addition, the University of Pennsylvania School of Society Policy and Practice is partnering with the BMKP to help fix the Hancock County human services system. Funding for these projects came solely from private and corporate donations and in-kind services.

Through outstanding effort and vision, this project brought hope to the Gulf Coast community by establishing a proactive disaster relief program. Madam Speaker, the experience gained by BMKP and its partner organizations has inspired them to present their program as a national disaster relief model designed to bring together the military, governmental agencies, regional groups and national organizations.

Madam Speaker, as you know, the victims of Hurricane Katrina have been slow to re-

ceive the necessary and promised support from our government. The Bux-Mont Katrina Relief Project has successfully provided private support to one community. Their disaster relief model, if promoted nationally, will expand on that success and greatly improve our Nation's ability to respond to man-made and natural disasters.

COPS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in support of the COPS Improvement Act.

Created by President Clinton, COPS grants have successfully put 117,000 police officers in our neighborhoods. The formula is simple—more cops means safer streets and more secure neighborhoods.

As a result of this tough-on-crime policy, our nation experienced a significant drop in crime rates throughout the 1990s. Unfortunately, last year the Republican-led Congress completely eliminated funding for this highly successful initiative.

It is no coincidence that when federal funds for COPS grants dried up, violent crime rates escalated. For example, last year the City of Philadelphia experienced a nine-year high in homicides, claiming 406 lives. This shamefully high number of homicides included my constituent, Police Officer Gary Skerski, who was shot while responding to a robbery.

Last week was the one-year anniversary of Officer Skerski's death, and we must not forget the sacrifices that he and the other officers have made to protect their communities.

That is why I am pleased that the Democratic Majority is taking steps to restore funding for COPS grants. As a result of this bill, we will put 50,000 new officers on our nation's streets, provide local law enforcement with additional tools and resources to combat crime, and better ensure that criminals are put behind bars.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has been endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, and the National Sheriffs' Association. These men and women serve our constituents every day, and they rely on us to support them with necessary equipment and resources for essential personnel.

I thank my colleagues for protecting our citizens by voting "yes" on this important bill.

C.O.P.S IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 1700, The C.O.P.S Improvement Act. This legislation helps to put 50,000 more police officers on America's streets. This bill will add hundreds of new

cops to fight crime and terrorism in the 9th Congressional District and the City of Houston.

The C.O.P.S. hiring program was created in 1994 to put more police officers on America's streets, and has been one of the most successful law enforcement programs in our Nation's history. Nationally, C.O.P.S. has provided \$9 billion to hire 117,000 police officers. According to a GAO study, between 1998 and 2000, C.O.P.S. grants were a significant factor in reducing crimes by about 200,000 to 225,000 crimes—one third of which were violent. In 1998, C.O.P.S. grants were greatly responsible for an 8 percent decrease in crimes—and a 13 percent drop in violent crimes. The C.O.P.S. Improvement Act will breathe new life into the C.O.P.S. program nationwide.

Since 1994, 907 additional police officers and/or sheriff deputies have been hired in the 9th District of Texas, and over \$64 million in C.O.P.S. grants have been awarded to law enforcement agencies in the 9th District of Texas. Passage of the C.O.P.S. Improvement Act of 2007 would likely add an additional \$19 million into Texas' 9th District. This bill will also help to make our schools and children safer by adding 8 more school resource officers to the beat. In the last 13 years over \$9 million in C.O.P.S. grants have been awarded to law enforcement agencies to purchase technology that enables agencies to put more officers on the beat in the 9th District.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the 5.7 percent drop in crime in the City of Houston is greatly due to the dedication of our city's hard-working men and women in uniform. Through their increased efforts Houstonians were safer from crime in 2006 than years before. I support the C.O.P.S. Improvement Act, and am proud to increase the number of police officers and make our Nation a safer and better place to live.

IN MEMORIAL OF DONALD N. BUIE

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Donald N. Buie of Sanford, North Carolina, who died Monday, May 7, 2007. In his passing I lost a good friend, and North Carolina lost one of its most outstanding citizens and a man who was instrumental in his church, community, county, and State.

One of the area's most beloved men, my friend Don, passed away peacefully with his family by his side following a brief battle with Creutzfeldt Jakob disease, a rare degenerative neurological disorder. He was only 63, Don loved hunting, raising beagles, barbecuing, and shagging the night away.

Don was a native of Western Harnett County and graduated from Benhaven High School in 1961. In 1965 Don received his undergraduate degree from East Carolina University in Physical Education and completed his master's degree from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1971. Don taught school in both Harnett and Lee County for 6 years. During this time, he coached basketball, baseball, and football. In 1973, he began working at Central Carolina

Community College. During his tenure at CCCC, Don was very active in expanding its curriculum, finding new talent and bringing culture in Lee, Harnett, and Chatham Counties. Don retired from CCCC in 2002 as the Dean of Continuing Education.

Don served Lee County in many capacities, and when he joined an organization he typically became the leader. Don was the chairman of the Lee County Democratic party where he helped lead us to victory in past elections. He was also past president and member of the Sanford Rotary Club, past president and member of the Lee County Wildlife Club, the past president of the Lee County Farm Bureau, and a host of others. Don is survived by his lovely wife of 38 years, Jeanne Johnson Buie, and their three children Melanie Hawes, Dixie Simpson, and David Buie.

Madam Speaker, Donald Buie used every minute of his long and productive life to make the world a better place. He was a respected and successful coach, a dedicated public servant, and a great North Carolinian. It is fitting that we honor him and his family today.

A TRIBUTE TO MARIO M. VITTONI COAST GUARD ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker it is with tremendous pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Petty Officer Mario M. Vittone of the United States Coast Guard. The Coast Guard selected him as the Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year for 2006. Officer Vittone demonstrated outstanding resourcefulness, leadership, and competence while serving at Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, North Carolina from January 1, 2006 to December 2006.

While performing the demanding duties of a Night Shift Supervisor for the Aviation Survival Technician Shop as the Senior Duty Rescue Swimmer, he applied his experience in rescue swimmer procedures, aviation maintenance techniques, and team management toward creating a standard operating procedures handbook. A brilliant mentor, he also designed a web-based service-wide exam study guide for all members of the unit and conducted daily training sessions to aid them in exam preparation. His unmatched efforts directly improved the readiness posture of the entire station and helped junior Coast Guard personnel score higher on exams.

Petty Officer Vittone used his expertise to author more than eight separate articles in areas ranging from survival to leadership. An accomplished writer, many of his articles have been published and are used as a reference by the Leadership Development Center at the Coast Guard Academy. Most recently, one of his articles was submitted for publication in the Winter 2006 issue of On-Scene Magazine.

With his stellar reputation for instilling commitment to operational excellence, he has delivered inspirational speeches to graduating companies as well as visitors at Training Center Cape May. Repeatedly, his motivating words capture the audience's attention and draw compliments from attendees.

His selfless contributions go beyond the Coast Guard and are evident in the community. As a testament to his unquestionable character, he endured a rigorous screening process to be hand-selected as an advocate for abused and neglected children in the Virginia Court System.

Petty Officer Mario M. Vittone's previous awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Coast Guard Achievement Medal (3), Commandant's Letter of Commendation, Coast Guard Basic Training Honor Graduate, Coast Guard Rifle Expert Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal (2). Through his exceptional achievement and performance, he has proven himself as a worthy and distinguished recipient of this award. His dedication, judgment, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and uphold the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

THANKING THE HONORABLE JAMES M. EAGEN III FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement, I rise to thank James Eagen III, for 25 years of distinguished service to the House of Representatives.

Jay began his House career in 1982 as a Legislative Assistant and then Administrative Assistant to Representative Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin. From 1985 to 1991, he served as the Chief of Staff to Representative Bill Goodling of Pennsylvania. Following his Member office service, Jay assumed the role of Staff Director on the Committee on Education and Workforce—currently the Committee on Education and Labor. Jay served the Committee and Chairman Goodling for six years before being nominated and elected to the office of Chief Administrative Officer of the House. He was sworn in to this prestigious position on July 31, 1997.

Jay has served as Chief Administrative Officer in the last six Congresses, and under his leadership, the Office of the CAO dutifully fulfilled its mission to provide first-rate administrative, technical, and support services. During his tenure, the CAO achieved customer satisfaction ratings in the 90th percentile and set new benchmark standards for customer service by Government agencies. Thanks in large part to Jay, the CAO truly is a world-class organization.

Furthermore, the House achieved nine consecutive clean annual financial statement audits, and successfully responded to the anthrax contamination of House office buildings in 2001. Jay led efforts to strengthen the House's business continuity and disaster recovery readiness following the September 11 attacks, and to modernize the committee hearing rooms to upgrade broadcasting capabilities, which enhanced the House's ability to share the legislative process with a greater number of citizens across the country.

Jay Eagen has served the U.S. House of Representatives, and our Nation, with honor and distinction. And on behalf of our entire